IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please **AMEND** claims in accordance with the following:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client/server system comprising:
a server, comprising:
        software to generate operating instructions for ~~a client-side~~an I/O device connected to a client;
        a device driver to function at the server as a client-side device driver for input-output control of a client-side I/O port controlling the I/O device connected to the client as the client-side I/O device, based on the operating instructions from the software; and
        a virtual I/O port to function at the server as a client-side I/O port interface to the device driver by transmitting an input-output control received from the device driver and informing the device driver of a received client-side I/O device event; and
        a client communicably connectable with the server and communicably connectable with the client-side I/O device, the client comprising:
        a client-side device handler to receive the input-output control from the virtual I/O port in the server and to transmit the client-side I/O device event to the server virtual I/O port, and
        a client-side I/O port to control the client-side I/O device according to an input-output control from the client-side device handler.

2.   (CANCELLED)

3.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A server, comprising:
software to generate operating instructions for an I/O device of a client as a client-side

I/O device, the client communicably connected to the server, and the client communicably connectable via a client-side I/O port to a client-sidethe I/O device of the client;

a device driver to function at the server as a client-side device driver for input-output control of the client-side I/O port controlling the I/O device connected to the client, based upon the operating instructions from the software; and

a virtual I/O port to function at the server as a client-side I/O port interface to the device driver by transmitting an input-output control signal received from the device driver to a client-side device handler of the client, the client-side device handler in communication via the client-side I/O port with the client-side I/O device, and by informing the device driver of a client-side I/O device event received from the client-side device handler.

4.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client, comprising:

a client-side device handler to receive input-output control for a client-side I/O device, from a server device driver andthrough a server virtual I/O port in a server communicably connected with the client, and to transmit a client-side I/O device event to the server device driver through the server virtual I/O port.

5.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The client according to claim 4, further comprising:

at least one client-side I/O port, which is coupled with the client-side I/O device, and which is controlled by the device driver in the server.

6.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The client/server system of claim 1, wherein the client-side I/O device is a bar code reader.

7.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The client/server system of claim 1, wherein the client and server communicate via a LAN.

8.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The client/server system of claim 1, wherein the client and server communicate via the WWW.

9.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client/server system comprising:

a client comprising:

at least one I/O device connected to the server as a client-side I/O device, and

a programmed computer processor to function as a device handler handling data communication, including an I/O event from the at least one client-side I/O device, via a client-side I/O port connected to the at least one client-side I/O device; and

a server communicably connectable with the client and comprising:

a programmed computer processor to function at the server as a client-side device driver for input-output control of the client-side I/O port controlling the I/O device connected to the client, and to function at the server as a client-side I/O port interface to the device driver by transmitting an input-output control received from the device driver to the client device handler and informing the device driver of a client-side I/O event received from the client device handler.